

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03903 200233Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /113 W

-----007280 202103Z /66

R 192307Z OCT 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6374

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3903

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORG, UNGA, RQ, CU

SUBJECT: FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON'S
MEETING WITH CUBAN PERM REP

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR RAFAEL
HERNANDEZ COLON (RHC) TODL US THAT CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON
SAID THAT:

-- CUBA FEELS VERY STRONGLY ABOUT PUERTO RICO AND IS
NOT SIMPLY USING THE ISSUE TO HARASS THE UNITED STATES; AND

-- CUBA IS NOT ADAMENT THAT PUERTO RICO BECOME IN-
DEPENDENT AND WOULD ACCEPT FREE ASSOCIATION BASED ON
"COMPLETE EQUALITY." END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 19, FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ
COLON CALLED MISOFF TO INFORM US OF HIS THREE-HOUR MEETING
WITH CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON ON OCTOBER 14 IN THE DELEGATES'
LOUNGE. RHC SAID THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE CUBAN
POSITION ON PUERTO RICO IS NOT SIMPLY AN EFFORT TO HARASS
THE UNITED STATES BUT STEMS FROM A DEEP CONCERN ROOTED IN
CUBAN AND PUERTO RICAN HISTORY. ALARCON TOLD RHC THAT
FIDEL HIMSELF HAS BEEN DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE ISSUE
FOR MANY YEARS. IN FACT, HE WAS ONCE JAILED FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03903 200233Z

PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF PUERTO
RICAN INDEPENDENCE. ALARCON ALSO NOTED THAT THE
ISSUE HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR CUBAN PUBLIC
OPINION. RHC INFERS THAT CUBA WILL CONTINUE ITS FOCUS
ON PUERTO RICO. HE HAS REPORTS FROM OTHHER SOURCES
WHICH VERIFY THAT CONCLUSION. IT IS HIS JUDGEMENT THAT
THE ISSUE CANNOT BE RESOLVED THROUGH US/CUBAN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. RHC SAID HE WAS VERY INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT CUBA IS NOT ADAMANT THAT PUERTO RICO BECOME INDEPENDENT. ALTHOUGH CUBA WOULD DEFINITELY NOT WANT TO SEE A 51ST STATE IN THE CARIBBEAN, ALARCON DOES NOT BELIEVE STATEHOOD IS A REAL POSSIBILITY. RHC SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PROCESS WITH ALARCON IN GREAT DETAIL AND MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT INDEPENDENCE IS NOT IN THE CARDS EITHER. RHC SAID THAT ALARCON INDICATED FREE ASSOCIATION IS A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO CUBA IF IT IS THE RESULT OF A PROCESS OF "COMPLETE EQUALITY." FROM A PROCEDURAL STANDPOINT, THIS WOULD REQUIRE JURIDICAL RECOGNITION OF PUERTO RICAN SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH SOME CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION. THE TYPE OF FREE ASSOCIATION WHICH WOULD MEET CUBAN CRITERIA IS ONE WHICH "GENUINELY FULFILLS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED IN THE 1953 UN RESOLUTION. (WE ASSUME THE REFERENCE IS TO GA RES 1541 OF 1960.)

4. RHC SAID THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH ALARCON PUT THE WHOLE ISSUE IN A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR HIM SINCE HE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE CUBAN STRATEGY WAS TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE FORCES AND UNDERMINE OR ELIMINATE FREE ASSOCIATION AS A LEGITIMATE ALTERNATIVE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03903 200233Z

YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN03903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770386-0673
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771040/aaaabing.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7028832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 854986
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON'S MEETING WITH CUBAN PERM REP
TAGS: PORG, RQ, CU, UNGA, (HERNANDEZ COLON, RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7028832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009